

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/080,419

Examiner

Anthony Q. Edwards

Applicant(s)

BELL ET AL.

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed November 9, 2003
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 June 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____
- 4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6 ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____

7 ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9 ☐ Other

BARREN SCHUBERG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Carl Oppedahl, Reg. No. 32,746 on December 17, 2003. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 8, delete "guides," and insert "guides;" and
line 9, delete "the enclosure shaped to receive".

Claim 4, line 1, delete "A" and insert "The system of claim 1, further comprising a" in its place.

Claim 5, line 7, delete "guides," and insert "guides;" and also at line 7, delete "the enclosure shaped to receive".

Claim 7, line 7, delete "guides," and insert "guides;" and also at line 7, delete "the enclosure shaped to receive".

Claim 10, line 7, delete "guides," and insert "guides;" and also at line 7, delete "the enclosure shaped to receive".

Claim 11, line 7, delete "guides," and insert "guides;" and also at line 7, delete "the enclosure shaped to receive".

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1, amended by Examiner's amendment is allowed. Claim 1 recites a system comprising an enclosure with a plurality of first and second guides, the guides receive a planar carrier by insertion in a first direction along the pair of guides; a key plate parallel to a first plane and intersecting the first guide, the key plate having a plurality of feature areas, each feature area corresponding to a respective plane of one of the pairs of guides, each feature area presenting a predetermined pattern of barriers to movement in the first direction, the barriers disposed at at least two locations along the first direction. These features, in combination with the rest of the elements or steps, are not taught or suggested by the prior art references. Claims 2-4 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons provided above.

Regarding claims 5, 7, 10, and 11, each claim recites an insertion method for use in a system comprising a carrier and an enclosure, the enclosure having a plurality of first and second guides, the guides receive a planar carrier by insertion in a first direction along the pair of guides; a key plate parallel to a first plane and intersecting the first guide, the key plate having a plurality of feature areas, each feature area corresponding to a respective plane of one of the pairs of guides, each feature area presenting a predetermined pattern of barriers to movement in the first direction, the barriers disposed at at least third and forth locations along the first direction.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, claim 8 recites a key plate comprising a substantially linear member, the key plate having a plurality of feature areas disposed at equally spaced distances along a first direction, each feature area presenting a predetermined pattern of barriers to

movement in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the barriers disposed at at least first and second locations along the second direction. These features, in combination with the rest of the elements or steps, are not taught or suggested by the prior art references. Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons provided above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 703-605-4214. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (703) 308-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-1782.

aqe
December 17, 2003


DARREN SCHUBERG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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